

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grouping of Religious Buildings at Trinity

AND/OR COMMON

St. Marys of the Woods Convent
Holy Trinity Church, rectory and School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2 miles west of the Ohio-Indiana border on St. Rt. 67

CITY, TOWN

Trinity

STATE

Indiana

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

018

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10

COUNTY

Jay

CODE

075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Convent-Robert Delauter, RR2, Bryant, Indiana
Church and rectory-Bishop Gallager, Lafayette Diocese
Lafayette, Indiana
School- Holy Trinity Parish, Trinity, Indiana

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jay County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

September, 1977

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

WOBC Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Celina, Ohio

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are four buildings included in this grouping at Trinity in Jay County. The St. Marys of the Woods Convent is approximately two miles west of the Ohio-Indiana line on the south side of St. Rt. 67 about 500 feet back a long lane. Originally built to house the priests, brothers, and sisters of the Society of the Most Precious Blood in 1855, it is now a private residence. The Holy Trinity church, rectory and school are located about ½ mile farther west on the same highway and are owned by the Catholic diocese at Lafayette and the parish.

The main building of the original convent complex is a handsome two-story brick structure with institutional massiveness and vernacular German details. All interior and exterior walls are twelve inches thick, are load-bearing and have built in flues that lead to the three chimneys for the stoves that were in each room. This huge building is symmetrically balanced with five bays of 6/6 double hung round arched windows at the front and back, and three bays at the sides. A central doorway to the front has an added one bay entrance porch. In the gable ends are pairs of quarter fan windows under a wide white frieze. A two-story veranda porch originally extended across the entire west facade where it is said the settlers came to the sisters for herbs and medicine. Now a one-story garage is attached to the south.

The High Gothic church was designed and built in 1885 by Anton De Curtins and his sons. The elaborate brick and stone church has a projecting central tower with stone buttresses and three tiers of sharply pointed gables. The bell tower that has flying buttresses is trimmed with four large and four smaller pointed stone gables and supports a soaring steeple and gilded cross. Built for \$18,000 less furnishings, it has a floor plan of 60' x 140' with a seating capacity of 400. Stained glass lancet windows with tracery and keystones are under waves of corbelling and a stone curbing on three sides of the church. The main entrance with its monumental stone gable peak and cross accents a compound arch with tracer. Double glass doors have recently replaced the original paneled wooden doors.

The interior has a ceiling that is intricately carved and has paintings of the twelve apostles. The ceiling-high main altar was brought from Germany over a century ago. It has figures that represent the Holy Trinity and the saints of the Catholic Church in its Gothic spoolwork and splendor. It closely resembles the two side altars.

East of the church, the 1909 two-story brick rectory with a hipped roof and dormer is dominated by a handsome three-bay open porch that shelters a double door entrance with sidelights. The porch has wooden columns with Roman Doric capitals, turned ballusters that support a wooden handrail, and lattice work around the open foundation. The house has a wide stone water table that accents the stone foundation and basement.

The 1909 brick one-story school is 34' x 65' with a full basement. Located east of the rectory, it has a square bell tower with cross-tipped pyramidal roof. Stone belt courses horizontally divide the projecting tower into three sections. The top section is now bricked-in where the open arches of the belfry were. The lowest section has double doors with a semi-circular fanlight surrounded by three rows of brick with keystone. A 1953 brick addition is to the south which forms a T-shape.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1855-1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The grouping of religious buildings at Trinity is historically significant because it is a settlement founded during the ante-bellum reform movement of Father Francis de Sales Brunner and his communal Society of the Most Precious Blood. This zealous Catholic priest brought his followers from Europe to the Black Swampland of western Ohio in 1846. They dominated the Catholic settlement of this part of Ohio with their schools, churches and training centers; and they continue to strongly influence the culture of the area today. Just two miles from the Ohio-Indiana border, this Indiana parish at Trinity is within the circle that has a radius of twenty-two miles from the first convent complex at Maria Steier in adjacent Mercer County, Ohio. There were six convent complexes built from 1846 to 1854. Only two of the main convent buildings remain. The St. Marys of the Woods convent at Trinity is the farthest west and the largest. This 1855 brick structure was formerly enveloped by a chapel, barns, and farm outbuildings that were built after Father Willibal Willi's arrival in 1854 with two brothers and four sisters who were members of the society. They farmed the 240 acres they purchased as they also ministered to the nearby Catholics. The other remaining brick main structure of a convent complex is Gruenwald at Cassella in Mercer County. It is included in the thematic grouping of approximately seventy buildings that are scattered in approximately forty parishes in the corners of four counties in Ohio and the two in Indiana around Trinity. That thematic grouping is known as "The Land of the Cross-Tipped Churches" and has been approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board. It was listed in the National Register on July 26, 1979.

Eleven Catholic families built a log church for \$100 in 1861 at Trinity. The parish grew until in 1885, the present brick church was constructed, although the priest continued to live at the convent. When Rev. Julian Mayer bought 1½ acres of land to build a rectory and school in 1909, he established the parish as a separate entity. Today there are about 80 families in the parish with a membership of approximately 400-500.

There is another parish nearby associated with the Society of the Most Precious Blood. The Irish members of the Holy Trinity parish broke away in 1888 and built the St. Marys Church, known as Irish Settlement church, about three and one-half miles northeast of Trinity in Adams County. Since this modest brick church was rebuilt after a fire in 1940 and since the rectory is a frame bungalow from 1919, these two parish structures are considered to have marginal architectural significance and are not included in the nomination.

The Holy Trinity Church is architecturally significant because it is one of the most elaborate Gothic churches designed by Anton De Curtins and his sons. The De Curtins family from Mercer County designed and/or constructed over twenty known churches from 1854 to 1930 in the parishes in the thematic grouping. The 140' tower and cross-tipped spire continue to dominate the flat Indiana farmland and is the most impressive structure in Wabash Towns in Jay County. The ceiling paintings of the twelve apostles were done in 1898 by a noted

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McKee, Jeanette, "Holy Trinity Has Guarded its Parish Since 1861," Commercial Review, Portland, Indiana, May, 1977.

Sister Octavia, Not With Silver or Gold, 1945.

Interviews with: Mrs. Elizabeth De Curtins Hoying, 8/77.

Andrew Reitz, parish resident, 9/77.

Helen Kenney, RR2, Geneva, Indiana, 9/77.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two and 3/4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME New Corydon see continuation QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000
 UTM REFERENCES sheet

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Convent: With the UTM reference as center point, inscribe a circle with a diameter of 200'. Church, school, and rectory: Beginning at the intersection of the driveway on the west side of the church and Route 67, go east 250'; then south 300'; then west 250'; then north to the place of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Ann Brown, Regional Director

March, 1979

ORGANIZATION

WOBC Historic Preservation Office, Wright State University

DATE

419-586-2365, ex. 53

STREET & NUMBER

7600 St. Rt. 703

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Celina, Ohio

STATE

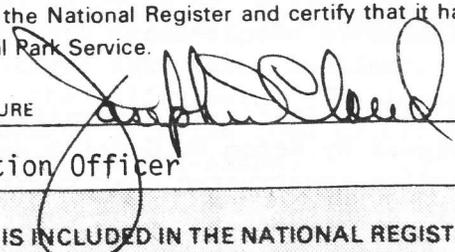
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 7, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Grouping of Religious Buildings at Trinity

St. Marys of the Woods Convent, Holy Trinity Church, rectory and School
Jay County, Indiana

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Sanguinist (Society of the Most Precious Blood member) artist, Rev. Paulinus Trost. The main altar of richly carved wood is virtually irreplaceable as a work of art. Many similar altars have been removed and destroyed in a recent epidemic of church remodelings.

The rectory is architecturally significant because it closely resembles fifteen other Catholic rectories, many built by the De Curtins, that are included in the thematic grouping. They are all large, brick, two-story, square houses with pyramidal or hipped roofs and front porches that span the facade. When the archbishop in Cincinnati directed about 1905 that each parish should furnish a residence for the priest, this style of house appeared in the neighboring parishes in Ohio and surely influenced the construction of this elegant one at Trinity.

The 1909 brick parochial school is architecturally important because it is a handsome turn of the century building with Italian Villa projecting square bell tower. Two other schools of similar style were built in Mercer County for Catholic parishes by the De Curtins. It has historical significance because it was the first bilingual (English and German) school in Jay County. The sisters administered and taught here until 1967 when it was used by the public school system for two years. Now it is used for religion classes for the children of the parish.

Item No. 10, Geographical Data

Zone 16	St. Marys of the Woods Convent	683080, 4489840
	Holy Trinity Catholic Church	682680, 4489920
	Holy Trinity Catholic Rectory	682710, 4489900
	Holy Trinity Catholic School	682740, 4489920

Grouping of Religious Buildings at Trinity,
Jay County, Indiana

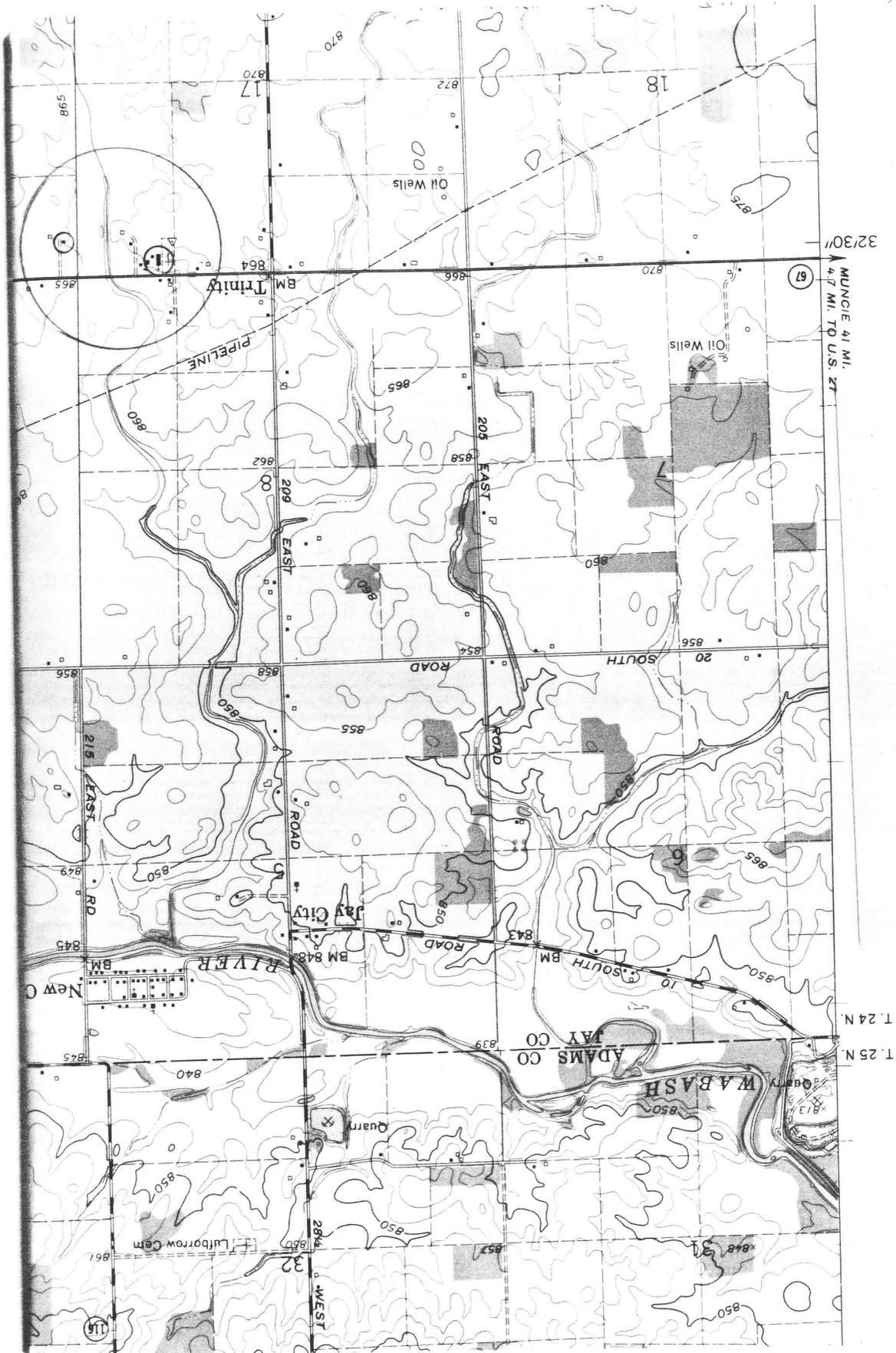
UTM References:

Convent: 16/683080/4489840

Church: 16/682680/4489920

Rectory: 16/682710/4489900

School: 16/682740/4489920



323000
4.7 MI. TO U.S. 27
MUNCIE 41 MI.

T. 24 N.
T. 25 N.